

**Michelle Webb**

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**From:** Gershon Cohen [gershoncohenak@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 05, 2014 1:38 PM  
**To:** Michelle Webb  
**Subject:** <no subject>

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Dear Clerk,

Please include the following note in the packet for the upcoming Assembly meeting.

Thank you

Gershon Cohen PhD  
Box 956  
766-3005

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Dear Borough Assembly Members,

I am aware of the Mayor's intent to make a public statement regarding the Governor's budget allocation of ~\$30 million for another round of "studies" of the Juneau Access Project. I urge the Assembly to give the Mayor a green light.

We are being told by the Legislature and the Governor that we will soon face significant financial problems in Alaska due to declining revenue, decreasing subsidies from the federal government, and increased costs for infrastructure repair and State employee retirement debt. The Juneau Access Project is now estimated to have a price tag of more than \$500 million, which does not include the cost of perpetual, year-round, maintenance.

Whether that figure is high, low, or spot-on is irrelevant: the chances are nil that the federal government will ever decide a Juneau road with a price tag in that range is warranted. Without a substantial federal subsidy, the project will not happen.

It is remarkable that an administration claiming to be fiscally conservative continues to throw money at the Juneau Access Project, especially when the amount being spent will be virtually meaningless to the eventual success of the effort. Meanwhile, the same sum of money could significantly help out so many communities like Haines, with proven needs.

Perhaps if enough communities speak out, the Legislature will listen and we will more

wisely spend the State's limited resources.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Gershon Cohen PhD  
Box 956 Haines  
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